AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Original) A method of providing an active annotation mechanism for use in association with a document of a document management system, where the document has an annotation added, the method comprising:

electronically scanning the document;

detecting the annotation added to the scanned document;

determining an action to be undertaken with reference to the document, based on the annotation; and

performing the action required by the annotation.

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2.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the active annotation mechanism is configured to be aware of a nature ~~of the~~ of the annotation content and applications whose behavior needs to be coordinated to perform the action required by the annotation.

3.   (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the active annotation mechanism is invoked when the document is stored.

4.   (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the active annotation mechanism is invoked at predetermined time intervals.

5.   (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the annotation carries at least one of an activity to be carried out and a parameter that configures that activity.

6.   (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the annotation is stored with the document.

7.   (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the annotation is stored separate from the document.

8.   (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the active annotation mechanism operates over at least plain text, files, program source code and presentations.

9.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the annotation is placed on the document at least as <u>one of</u> an in-line annotation and an out-of-band annotation.

10.   (Original) A method of providing an active annotation mechanism for use with a document in a document management system capable of dynamically changing a system configuration of the document comprising the steps of:

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generating executable code to detect update data added to the document, wherein the update data are annotations which require an action to be undertaken;

assigning the executable code to an active property for dynamically changing the system configuration of the document to include the desired configuration which achieves the desired operation;

attaching the active property to the document, the property identifying a desired operation to be undertaken in connection with the document;

assigning a triggering event to the property such that the property invokes the executable code in response to the triggering event; and

upon an occurrence of the triggering event, invoking the executable code of the property and dynamically changing the system configuration of the document to include the desired configuration.

11.   (Original) The method according to claim 10 wherein the active annotation mechanism is configured to be aware of a nature of the of the annotation content and applications whose behavior needs to be coordinated to perform the action required by the annotation.

12.   (Original) The method according to claim 10 wherein the active annotation mechanism is invoked when the document is stored.

13.   (Original) The method according to claim 10 wherein the active annotation mechanism is invoked at predetermined time intervals.

14.   (Original) The method according to claim 10 wherein the annotation carries at least one of an activity to be carried out and a parameter that configures that activity.

15.   (Original) The method according to claim 10 wherein the annotation is stored with the document.

16.   (Original) The method according to claim 10 wherein the annotation is stored separate from the document.

17.   (Original) The method according to claim 10 wherein the active annotation mechanism operates over at least plain text, files, program source code and presentations.

18.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 10 wherein the annotation is placed on the document at least as one of an in-line annotation and an out-of-band annotation.

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19.   (Original) An active annotation mechanism for use in association with a document of a document management system, where the document has had an annotation added, comprising:

   a scanning mechanism to electronically scan the document;

   a detector to detect the annotation added to the scanned document;

   a detector to determine the contents of the annotation, and an action to be undertaken with reference to the document, based on the annotation; and

   a performance mechanism to perform the action required by the annotation.

20.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 10 wherein the annotation is placed on the document at least as <u>one of</u> an in-line annotation and an out-of-band annotation.